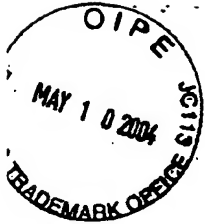


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In the application of:

Helmut D. LINK et al.

Serial No.: 10/731,432

Filing Date: December 10, 2003

For: INSTRUMENT SET FOR FITTING AN  
INTERVERTEBRAL JOINT  
PROSTHESIS

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 3729

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fee, please amend this application as follows:

The amendments to the specification begin on page 2.

The Listing of Claims begins on page 4.

The Remarks begin on page 9.